



**Pacific Northwest Region**  
**Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area**  
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# News Release

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## **Helicopter Operations Planned for Upper Catherine and Major Creek Landscape Restoration Project**

Hood River, OR - Helicopter activity will be resuming in the upper Catherine and Major Creek areas as part of a landscape restoration project occurring on National Forest System lands in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Helicopter activity is expected to resume on or around October 20, and will continue in various locations in the area for about eight weeks.

The purpose of the project is to release oak trees that have been overtopped by Douglas fir trees from decades of fire exclusion, and to restore oak habitat. The project is also designed to reduce the immediate risk of high intensity wildfires in the area. The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Forest Service is implementing this project as part of a larger landscape restoration strategy that includes several approaches to ecosystem restoration. The work is being implemented through a stewardship contract, and is based on an Environmental Analysis completed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in 2009.

Residents and visitors to the area should expect to hear helicopter noise and may see helicopters flying material. For public and operator safety, access into the specific areas where operations are taking place may be limited.

We regret any noise concerns residents and guests to the area may experience, and want to ensure you that the work will result in a healthier forest and improved habitat.

For more information and a map of the affected area, please visit our website at [www.fs.usda.gov/crgnsa](http://www.fs.usda.gov/crgnsa).

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